

Message

From: Johnston, Jon [Johnston.Jon@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/2/2017 6:58:08 PM
To: Lincoln, Larry [Lincoln.Larry@epa.gov]
CC: Crosby-Vega, Terri [Crosby-Vega.Terri@epa.gov]; Lamberth, Larry [Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov]; Farmer, Alan [Farmer.Alan@epa.gov]; Monell, Carol [Monell.Carol@epa.gov]; Torres, Ramon [Torres.Ramon@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: PCBs, Holston Army Ammunition Plant
Attachments: Holston Army Ammunition Report Aug 2015 Inspection.pdf

Importance: High

An inquiry from Newsweek.

*Jon D. Johnston, Chief
Materials and Waste Management Branch
EPA Region 4
404-562-8527*

Feed People, Not Landfills

From: Crosby-Vega, Terri
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 1:51 PM
To: Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>
Cc: Johnston, Jon <Johnston.Jon@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: PCBs, Holston Army Ammunition Plant

Hi Larry,

I wanted to forward you this inquiry. Can you answer his questions about enforcement?

Thanks!
Terri

Terri Crosby-Vega
Environmental Engineer
USEPA Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center 9T25
61 Forsyth Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-562-8497

From: Daniel Ross [<mailto:dross1@gm.slc.edu>]
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 1:41 PM
To: Crosby-Vega, Terri <Crosby-Vega.Terri@epa.gov>
Subject: PCBs, Holston Army Ammunition Plant

Dear Terri --

My name is Dan Ross, I'm a reporter with Newsweek, and I've just finished working on a story looking into the open burning and open detonation of munitions (that I'd reached out to you about).

I'd sent the following email to Ken Feely, but I see that he's out of the office for another 10 days.

During my investigation, I looked at the OB/OD of munitions at Holston Army Ammunition Plant. During which time, I came across a Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation inspection report from late 2015, in which they found that wastes containing PCBs had been illegally burned there. I've attached the report.

I've been following up on what enforcement actions have been taken since that inspection. TDEC told me that enforcement jurisdiction falls under the EPA. I've spoken with EPA spokesperson Jason McDonald, who told me that the EPA is not responsible for following up on this issue.

Meanwhile, the DoD told me that "when the soil, groundwater, and industrial wastewater run-off associated with the open burning grounds were tested for PCB contamination, at the request of the EPA, all sample results indicated the presence of no detectable PCBs."

The DoD also said that "the operating contractor, BAE, was fined \$14,500 for violation of TSCA for documentation regarding transformers. The case is closed."

However, when I asked for documented proof of what they said, they were unable to provide it. McDonald essentially told me that he is unable to verify what the DoD states, either.

As you can imagine, I'm confused.

Mark Toohey (a judge who lives in close proximity of Holston) told me to reach out to Ken Feely - he said that Ken would have knowledge of what actions would have been taken since that August 2015 inspection, if any. I'm eager to get to the bottom of this ASAP - any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan Ross
(323) 482 8911
@1danross